



*Lion Yard
Area*

1950s

73.48

c.44.6 : 'Lion Yard' area

Includes Alexandra Street, Falcon Yard, Post Office Terrace, St Andrew's Hill

1900

1900 07 31

E.S. Payne has opened premises at Alexandra Street, Cambridge for the manufacture of artificial teeth. Complete sets, upper or lower from £1. Single tooth added, 2s.6d. Easy payment taken. Teeth scaled, stopped or extracted. Trusses and elastic stockings made to order – advert

1902 10 24

The members of the Cambridge Y.M.C.A. celebrated their jubilee with a soiree in their rooms in Alexandra Street. 50 years ago the Church of England Young Men's Society and the Sunday School Teachers' Institute amalgamated, forming the Association. It settled in Rose Crescent. In 1853 it moved to larger premises at 5, Sidney Street, moving to Hobson Place in 1858 and then St Edward's Passage. In 1870 the first stone was laid of their present building; it was completed a year later. To call the soiree a success is scarcely adequate; the visitors never had a dull moment from the time they entered the door until the National Anthem brought the evening to a close.

1903 08 11

Our attention has been drawn to the fact that another link with the fascinating past of Cambridge is being severed by the almost entire demolition of the one-time famous 'Falcon Inn'. Many years ago the front of the building, with its fine old gables facing Petty Cury, disappeared and about eight years ago the buildings on the left side of the Falcon Yard were demolished to make way for business extensions. Now the rooms on the right side are in process of demolition for extra accommodation for the Lion Hotel. The back part possessing a small specimen of the open gallery remains

1903 10 14

St Tibbs Row Livery stables, p3

1903 12 23

Cambridge architect Edwin Bays has produced a plan for a new 60 feet-wide road from Downing Street to Guildhall Street, parallel to Corn Exchange Street. This would create valuable frontages for business premises on either side and lead to a site for a new Cambridgeshire County Hall. There would be a fountain to take off the nakedness of the wide entrance at St Andrew's Hill, replacing the old Corn Exchange. It would relieve the congested traffic in the narrow Petty Cury and provide a direct access to the chief colleges.

1904 02 19

Cambridge Liberals have been turned out of their handsome home in St Andrew's Street. Few provincial political clubs have had such a palatial clubhouse with large lofty rooms, spacious hall and staircase with a terrace overlooking gardens. The deceased Alderman, Henry Rance, who built the extensive premises practically ruined himself in the process. Members are now removed to a property in St Tibb's Row formerly occupied by a now defunct newspaper until new premises are completed on the site of the old Bird Bolt Hotel.

1905 09 13

Sir – I believe the earliest Cambridge photographer was George Proctor, who lived in New Square until he died about 1850. About the same time Sarony, a celebrated photographer, was allowed to carry on his business in a caravan on Parker's Piece. There were others including Nichols who had a flourishing business; he moved from Slaughter House Lane to St Mary's Passage and later his son to Post Office Terrace. He took my own portrait in 1854 and it is as good today as it was then – 'Three-score and twelve' 05 09 13a

1909 03 19

Mr W.B. Redfern's unique collection of watercolour drawings of old Cambridge excited great interest. In 1875 he started to record places of bygone and antiquarian interest which but for his timely intervention would have been lost for ever. A good many had now entirely disappeared including two houses in Shelley Row which were the residence of Oliver Cromwell during the Civil War. They were panelled with two handsome fireplaces which he had moved to his own house. Old houses in Petty Cury were the most striking and perfect places which should never have been pulled down while parts of the Falcon Yard had remained until the last few years. 09 03 19

1909 11 12

An old lady over 80 years of age who lived alone in a house in Vicar's terrace leading from St Tibb's Row was found nearly asphyxiated from gas and never regained consciousness. Her son-in-law noticed that the blinds were drawn and broke a window to get in. He noticed a peculiar smell as if somebody had been using methylated spirit. The lady never regained consciousness. It seems that a main became broken from heavy traffic and the escaping gas got under the flooring of the house in the night. CWN 09 11 12

1910

1912 12 20

The Cambridge branch of the Friends of the Soviet Union held an enjoyable social at the new Left Book Club rooms in Falcon Yard at which two Russian silent films were shown. The first, 'Oil Symphony' gave an account of the tapping of some of the country's vast oil resources, while the second recounted the construction of the Baltic-White sea canal. There was also an interesting exhibition of modern Russian craft work. Copies of photographs sent to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Socialist regime were given as prizes in competitions and dances 12 12 20e

1912 12 20

John Vail, ironmonger of Post Office Terrace and oldest East Anglia Freemason dies 12 12 20bb

1913 08 01

PC. Law told the court he was on duty in St Tibbs Row at 11pm and heard singing of the ragtime song 'Dixie' going on inside the Carriers Arms. He told the landlord it was time to close and showed him his watch, which was 1½ minutes slow. The landlord said he had a clock in the bar which he compared with the one in Downing Street and kept eight minutes fast. He'd seen the policeman outside and warned his wife not to serve beer after eleven. The young constable had been a little too zealous in his duty. Magistrates warned him to close on time in future. 13 08 01 p9 CIP

1915 03 05

St Tibbs' Row fire, soldiers help fight – photo – 15 03 05a1935 07 04

1920

1920 10 08 CDN

YMCA premises Alexandra Street renovated after given up for use of troops

1921 03 30

John Vail ironmonger of Post Office Terrace – long-service staff with hammers – 21 03 30d

1923 09 12

We regret to record the death of Mr J E L Whitehead, town clerk of Cambridge. He attended Emmanuel College and took the law as his profession, being articled to his uncle who was many years Borough Treasurer. He practised at an office in Alexandra Street until he was appointed town clerk in succession to Mr Edmund Foster in August 1887. For many years he was a member of the Cam sailing club and was a prominent member of the Bijou Amateur dramatic Club and played juvenile lead in many of their productions

1924 07 22

The large body of photographers from the Royal Photographic Society who visited Cambridge recently were much impressed by some very artistic coloured portraits in the window of J. Palmer Clarke's establishment in Post Office Terrace. They are something quite new, and of a very high artistic quality, as nearly like oil paintings as camera portraits are likely to be made. The method of colouring is the personal work of Mr C.E. Goodrich

1925 03 09 c

We regret to announce the death of Alderman W.T. See. He entered the office of the late Mr James Catling, auctioneer valuer, house and estate agent, with whom he served for 25 years. He gave up his work and devoted himself to music and became well-known as a teacher of organ and piano playing. He was conductor for many years of the Cambridge Choral Society. About three years ago he re-entered business life, going into partnership with Mr P. Freeman, under the name of Messrs See & Freeman, estate agents, Alexandra Street, Cambridge.

1926 12 16

The Cambridge Camera and Wireless Co. of Alexandra Street offers a very complete range of component parts or complete wireless sets. The famous Pye sets can be seen in their windows, also the self-contained "Britamax All-Wave" receivers. Specialities of this firm include reliable, but cheap, H.T. batteries, valves and loud speakers.

1930

1933 09 20

Well-built houses, Perne Road. An attractive position, situate on the beautifully-made new ring road, close to bus stop. Prices £690 and £710. £50 down, balance £1 weekly. See Walter Driver's announcement in the auction columns for detailed particulars. Sole Agent: Drivers, 1a Post Office Terrace. Tel.468 (Advertisement). 33 09 20

1933 11 02

Photographs taken during a holiday in Russia are displayed at Ramsey and Muspratt studio in Post Office Terrace. Two studies, 'Dneiprastron: the new town' and 'Moscow: the Kremlin' show there is beauty in the new and old. The human side is captured in a fine study of the 'Intourist' bus driver and a Young Pioneers' demonstration while 'The Infants School' shows the Russian child. 'Prison Settlement', is a photo of another aspect of Russian life. 33 11 02

1936 11 28

Brazen George Inn was in St Andrew's Street, Alexandra Street was its yard – 36 11 28

1935 07 04

A motor engineer told the bankruptcy proceedings that he'd started at a small lock-up garage at Chesterton in 1933, then moved to St Tibbs Row where he sold used cars. Next year he moved to Bridge Street. He advertised for a salesman, and three or four paid £50 and received a car. An investor put £500 into the business which was for the purchase of cars 35 07 04

1940

1941 08 22

Death of Mr. A. B. Chater. Mr. Augustine Barrett Chater, who died suddenly at his residence, 21, Hartington Grove, Cambridge, was the third son of the late Mr. Josiah Chater. He was educated in Cambridge and took his B.A. degree at the university. He was unmarried. He was admitted an Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in 1895. Mr. Chater joined his father and his brother the late Mr Vernon Chater in practising at 5 Alexandra Street. He continued the business up the time of his death. 41 08 22

1944 05 05

Telephone supervisor, Grace Curzon retires after 45 years; was one of two telephone operators in Trunk Exchange of Old Post Office. The local telephone exchange was on Market Hill under control of the National Telephone Company. In 1913 the Post Office took control and a combined trunk and local exchange was installed in old Telephone Exchange premises in Alexandra Street. When automatic telephone working was introduced in 1925 it moved to new head Post Office in St Andrew's Street – 44 05 05a

1948 06 05

Mr H.C. Bruce of New Fletton, Peterborough has written to say: "I have always had a warm spot for the Cambridge Daily News. It has had some rough passages and I like to think I helped it through one. When the 'Cambridge Gazette' started their new plant in St Tibbs' Row they also came out with a fine new yellow cart with rubber tyres. Every time we went out with our tall red cart with iron tyres and poor old mare they could beat us, because they had a fast trotter. They got to the newsagents first for some time and our returns began to increase, but with a little ingenuity on the round at night we managed to get and keep the lead. I got those papers to the agents before the 'Gazette' and had less returns to parcel up for waste paper"

1950

1951 03 14

Cambridge Council is to recommend a scheme for a multi-deck car park at the Lion Yard. The Surveyor suggests all adjoining property owned by the council should be demolished, the opportunity being taken to widen Corn Exchange Street and St Tibb's Row and that the possibility of further extensions to St Andrew's Hill for offices, shops or increased car park facilities should be borne in mind. He submitted a plan showing a building of six floors which could accommodate 825 cars

1951 10 31

From the hall of the Y.M.C.A. at Alexandra Street, Cambridge a distinguished company launched an appeal for funds. The speaker said that the lonely searchlight batteries during the war were visited by the Y.M.C.A. vans three times a week. They brought the little things the soldiers liked, tea, buns, cigarettes and papers. And the ladies of the 'Y.M.' took back letters for the troops and even wrote them for soldiers who were illiterate. The Cambridge building was completed in 1871 and had a moral affect on the thousands of young people who have been through the rooms and shared the facilities.

1952 04 16

Much as we should all like to dispense with the yearly job of collecting new ration books there is no chance of this happening yet awhile. The Food Office has announced that the new ration books will be distributed from the Corn Exchange and the Old Sorting Office in Post Office Terrace, Cambridge. Elderly people and mothers with babies are recommended to visit the Corn Exchange as it is ground floor accommodation. It is not necessary to take along identity cards on this occasion but unless your full name is entered on page four of the old book the Food Office will be unable to issue a new one

1952 05 05

Cambridge city council would like to see Christ's Lane opened out as a thoroughfare to be used by the omnibuses and other traffic to alleviate congestion in the City centre and provide relief for Emmanuel Street. The present country bus station at Drummer Street would then become the main stopping place for the local buses which now pick up and set down passengers in Sidney Street constricting the traffic flow. They also propose a new road on the line of Post Office Terrace to Wheeler Street. With Corn Exchange Street widened this would provide for a good circulation of traffic in the city centre.

1956 11 02

A new telephone exchange to be built in St Tibb's Row will one day house the equipment for Cambridge's link-up with the rest of the country on a national trunk dialling system. Old cottages used for storage, small office units and workshops facing on to Post Office Terrace will be demolished for an extension of the present telephone exchange and in early 1961 engineers will install equipment to meet the needs of 3,000 new subscribers. In 1935 there were 2,700 telephone subscribers on the Cambridge exchange; now this has trebled to 7,700 and will reach 10,000 by 1960. 56 11 02d & e

1956 12 01

Henekeys of Alexandra Street, Petty Cury give one shilling in the pound discount on three bottles of wines and spirits during December. A selection of prices: H.R.H. White Seal whisky 34/- (£1.70), Cognac 41/- (£2.05), Amontillado sherry 18/6 (92p), Liebraumilch Superior hock 10/10 (54p) and Veuve Grenier champagne 21/- (£1.05). 56 12 01a

1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has newspaper cuttings from this date

1960

1962 06 01

Thieves last night cleared almost the whole stock of lightweight coats, suits and cocktail dresses from the upstairs showroom of Hutton, the women's outfitters in Petty Cury. Only clothes in the showroom window were untouched. Evening dresses were left heaped on the floor and bridal gowns left on their hangers, indicating that the thieves were disturbed. Police say the raiders carried bundles of dresses to a van parked in the narrow Alexandra Street near the shop. 62 06 01

1965 04 02

A new folk group, the Blue River Boys, specialise in American Bluegrass Music. They comprise two guitarists, Andrew Kendon and Mike Scott, mandolin player Joe Watson, banjo picker Erik Grainger and bassist Adrian Kendon. Meetings at the Horse and Groom have become so packed that the Cambridge Folk Club is moving to the large hall of the YMCA in Alexandra Street where 200 can sit

in comfort. Later a concert will be held featuring Mike Seegar, brother of America's leading folk singer, Pete Seegar 65 04 02b

1967 11 17

Drayman makes delivery in Alexandra Street – photo – 67 11 17

1970

1971 03 13

E.S. Summers, commercial and heraldic artist for 40 years to retire when Lion Yard redevelopment sweeps away premises at 13 Alexandra Street – 71 03 13

1971 03 30

YMCA to celebrate centenary by move from Alexandra Street to Gonville Place – 71 03 30a

1972 06 27

Although the war ended 27 years ago the little patch of Cambridge around Alexandra Street has a distinct 1940s look. In common with all the little alleyways off Petty Cury, Alexandra Street is in the throes of the Lion Yard re-development scheme. The old is being swept away by the demolition gangs to make way for the new and soon the whole face of the area will begin to change. The first phase of the project - the multi-storey car park - is due to open at the end of next week. Work on the second stage - the demolition of the southern side of Petty Cury and the building of shops and service roads on the Lion Yard - is already under way and is expected to take about two years. The third stage - the building of a large central library - will start soon after this, p17

1972 10 05

The bulldozers and demolition gangs may have ruined the character of Petty Cury and destroyed Falcon Yard forever, but for those who appreciate the past two crumbs of comfort: Fisher House was saved. Reprieve too for Ramsey and Muspratt, the photographers in Post Office Terrace, where silver birch trees have sprouted in the old courtyard behind the studio. There have been photographers in Post Office Terrace since the 1860s. Lettice Ramsey and Helen Muspratt took over from Palmer Clark in 1933. "We took over the whole thing, lock, stock and barrel, with about 50,000 old negatives. We have been here ever since", said Mrs Ramsey, competing with the noise of a pneumatic drill. Now she and her women assistants battle through the noise and dust every day to maintain a "business as normal" service

1973 07 13

St Tibbs Row, p5

1974 01 31

Since the traditional bar in Alexandra Street was closed down for the Lion Yard development, the name of Henekeys has been missing from the city scene. The Henekey Tavern, which has just been completed under the former Dorothy Restaurant has brought it back in style. The Alexandra Bar keeps a link with the past and adjoining it is a farmhouse-style chop bar. In the contrasting Squires Bar a more substantial meal can be eaten in plush surroundings

1978 05 12

The Sunday Times devoted many pages to portraits of such people as Burgess and Maclean photographed during their undergraduate days in a "relaxed" style then very usual. They were taken by the famous Cambridge photographers, Ramsey and Muspratt in their studios at Post Office Terrace. The article also mentioned the 50,000-odd negatives left behind there by generations of photographic firms, but there could be even more. In a separate building at the back are cupboards, not opened for at least 70 years that are absolutely stuffed with glass negatives. But now a selection of them have been printed by the Cambridgeshire Collection

1980

1985 02 01

The rambling photographic premises in Post Office Terrace are best known as Ramsey and Muspratt's studios. It was in 1931 that Lettice Ramsey and Helen Muspratt took over the business previously run by Palmer Clarke. They built up the portraiture side of the work, photographing most of the university students in the 1930s and carefully filing their negatives. In 1978 the business was taken over by Nicholas Lee and then Peter Lofts but has now closed. All the glass negatives of previously photographers at the studio, dating back to the 1860s, are now in the Cambridgeshire Collection. 85 02 01b & c

1985 07 18

Lettice Ramsey, a member of the Bloomsbury Group and Cambridge photographer extraordinary, has died at the age of 86. Born in Ireland, she was educated at Newnham College and married Frank Ramsey a brilliant King's philosopher who tragically died three years later. Left with two daughters she studied briefly at Regent Street Polytechnic and set up in business as a photographer in Post Office Terrace with Helen Muspratt. She was instantly successful and rapidly became fashionable, photographing the influential and up-and-coming throughout the 1930s including Anthony Blunt and Virginia Woolf. She retired in 1978 85 07 18

